

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following listing of claims:

1-13 (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for cleaning and sterilizing an instrument, comprising:

a chamber adapted to connectorlessly engage and secure said instrument placed within said chamber in a fixed position during cleaning and sterilization, said chamber including a fluid exhaust port,

a pressurized water reservoir in fluid connection with said chamber,

a re-circulating water pump in fluid connection with said water reservoir,

a water source in fluid connection with said water reservoir; and

a means for introducing ozone into said water from the water source,

wherein said re-circulating water pump provides sterile water by re-circulating ozonated water within said reservoir.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, further including a filter means disposed between the water source and the pressurized water reservoir.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said ozone is introduced before the water contacts said filter means.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the water source is in fluid connection with both the pressurized water reservoir and the chamber.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, further including one or more filter means disposed between the water source, the pressurized water reservoir, and the chamber.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said chamber is pressurized.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said water includes between 0.1 and 15 percent ozone by volume.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said instrument comprises a lumened instrument.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means for introducing ozone achieves a greater than log six reduction in any bacteria, spores, or fungi present within said apparatus.